

CLAIMS

1. A file managing apparatus for managing files recorded on a recording medium which has an index file recorded as a series of entries comprising blocks of extract information derived from and corresponding to said files;

wherein said file managing apparatus reorganizes said index file in such a manner that a plurality of still picture files recorded on said recording medium are grouped into a single movie file; and

wherein the entries corresponding to said plurality of still picture files grouped into said movie file are deleted from said index file, while an entry comprising extract information about said movie file is registered into said index file.

2. The file managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said movie file is an external reference type file which offers the corresponding still pictures in reference to said plurality of still picture files recorded on said recording medium; and

wherein said file managing apparatus forms said movie file so that said movie file points to said plurality of still picture files.

3. The file managing apparatus according to claim

1, wherein said movie file is a self-contained type file which has real data representative of picture data related to said plurality of still picture files and which offers the corresponding still pictures based on said real data;

wherein said file managing apparatus forms said movie file by successively acquiring said picture data from said plurality of still picture files; and

wherein, upon deleting from said index file the entries corresponding to said plurality of still picture files grouped into said movie file, said file managing apparatus also deletes said plurality of still picture files.

4. The file managing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said extract information is organized into groups by attribute of said extract information so that entries of thumbnail images representative of said still picture files are formed in said index file;

wherein said file managing apparatus acquires data about said thumbnail images representative of said plurality of still picture files from said index file and associates the acquired data with said still picture files so as to form groups of real data comprising the data about said thumbnail images in said movie file; and

wherein said file managing apparatus deletes the entries of said thumbnail images representative of said still picture files recorded in said index file.

5. The file managing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said extract information is organized into groups by attribute of said extract information so that entries of thumbnail images representative of said still picture files are formed in said index file;

wherein said file managing apparatus acquires data about said thumbnail images representative of said plurality of still picture files from said index file and associates the acquired data with the picture data so as to form groups of real data comprising a series of the data about said thumbnail images in said movie file; and

wherein said file managing apparatus deletes the entries of said thumbnail images representative of said still picture files recorded in said index file.

6. The file managing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said extract information is organized into groups by attribute of said extract information so that entries in text of titles representative of said still picture files are formed in said index file;

wherein said file managing apparatus acquires data about said titles representative of said plurality of

still picture files from said index file and associates the acquired data with said still picture files so as to form groups of real data comprising the data about said titles in said movie file; and

wherein said file managing apparatus deletes the entries of said titles representative of said still picture files recorded in said index file.

7. The file managing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said extract information is organized into groups by attribute of said extract information so that entries in text of titles representative of said still picture files are formed in said index file;

wherein said file managing apparatus acquires data about said titles representative of said plurality of still picture files from said index file and associates the acquired data with the picture data so as to form groups of real data comprising the data about said titles in said movie file; and

wherein said file managing apparatus deletes the entries of said titles representative of said still picture files recorded in said index file.

8. The file managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of still picture files associated with the reorganization of said index file

belong to a particular folder.

9. The file managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the number of entries in said index file is determined and said index file is reorganized based on the determination result.

10. The file managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the number of entries determined in said index file is presented to a user and said index file is reorganized in response to user instruction.

11. The file managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein reregistration of said still picture files is carried out in such a manner that the entry comprising the extract information about said movie file is deleted from said index file while the entries comprising the extract information about said plurality of still picture files are registered into said index file.

12. A file managing method for managing files recorded on a recording medium which has an index file recorded as a series of entries comprising blocks of extract information derived from and corresponding to said files, said file managing method comprising the steps of:

reorganizing said index file in such a manner that a plurality of still picture files recorded on said

recording medium are grouped into a single movie file;
and

deleting the entries corresponding to said plurality of still picture files grouped into said movie file from said index file, while registering an entry comprising extract information about said movie file into said index file.

13. A file managing method program for causing a computer to execute a procedure for managing files recorded on a recording medium which has an index file recorded as a series of entries comprising blocks of extract information derived from and corresponding to said files, said procedure comprising the steps of:

reorganizing said index file in such a manner that a plurality of still picture files recorded on said recording medium are grouped into a single movie file;
and

deleting the entries corresponding to said plurality of still picture files grouped into said movie file from said index file, while registering an entry comprising extract information about said movie file into said index file.

14. A recording medium which records a file managing method program for causing a computer to execute

a procedure for managing files recorded on a recording medium which has an index file recorded as a series of entries comprising blocks of extract information derived from and corresponding to said files, said procedure comprising the steps of:

reorganizing said index file in such a manner that a plurality of still picture files recorded on said recording medium are grouped into a single movie file; and

deleting the entries corresponding to said plurality of still picture files grouped into said movie file from said index file, while registering an entry comprising extract information about said movie file into said index file.